

# 7th Albanian EOD Contingent

On 26 May 2011, the 7th EOD contingent presented to DCOM EUFOR, Brigadier General Tibor Nagy an EOD demonstration at Kalinovik Range. The process would allow DCOM to observe the operational capabilities of this contingent in Hand-over/Take-over process.

The demonstration began with checking the area of the helicopter landing zone for the presence of unexploded munitions and mines in order to prepare the landing site for the landing of a helicopter. After the site was made ready and the helicopter arrived in the vicinity, the ALB EOD signalled by a smoke grenade initiated through an electrical circuit.

DCOM met with the Albanian contingent and Senior National Representative, Lt Col Liman Alku. Then the Contingent Commander Captain Vladimir Pica briefed Brigadier General Nagy on the EOD Centre in Albania and the EOD platoon supporting the Althea mission. This briefing talked about the background mission, tasks, operational skills, training, and materials in both Albania and BiH. Then the ALB EOD Pl displayed their equipment and devices and demonstrated their employment and utility in different EOD / IED incidents.

Finally four disposal exercises were demonstrated for the destruction of conventional munitions and improvised devices:

1. Disposal of a wooden box a suspected IED with a bottle of water and detonation cord.
2. Disposal of heavy improvised ammunition with improvised shaped charge.
3. Disposal of a rocket launcher.
4. Disposal of an Ex Yugoslavian fragmentation grenade PMR-2AS.

DCOM thanked the Albanian Contingent for their contribution to the EUFOR mission and congratulated their professionalism and operational capabilities.

By Lt Col Liman Alku



The 7th Albanian EOD Contingent consists of ten personnel in total, one Commissioned Officer and nine Non Commissioned Officers. The Contingent includes two EOD teams who perform the full spectrum of EOD tasks declared at full operating capability.

The Albanian EOD Contingent has twelve years experience dealing with the enormous problems that face Albania.

They have been involved in safely disposing of the excessive amounts of ammunition that have already lost their parameters endangering the lives of local population in the vicinities.

This group has completed an eight week intensive training package in Albania before being deployed to Bosnia and Herzegovina. The training and exercising focused on the EOD SOPs together with learning from the

experience of the six previous Contingents.

The seventh Contingent has been serving in Althea Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina since March 31st, 2011 and has been perfectly integrated inside and outside of Camp Butmir.

Already being a NATO member makes Albanian EOD at the same time proud, motivated and responsible in their tasks and presentation.

# Combined Training with AFBiH

On 3rd June 2011, the Turkish T-Coy of the Multi-National Battalion (MNBN) conducted a joint training exercise with the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH) in the training area Railovac. On this occasion, two platoons from Banja Luka participated in the exercise and were trained in Crowd and Riot Control (CRC) techniques as well as in checkpoint procedures. This training is part of a series of joint military exercises with AFBiH. Combined trainings are either at platoon or company level. This time some 30 soldiers were participating and this event again demonstrated the growing co-operation between EUFOR and AFBiH. This joint training commenced in 2008 and it is pleasing to see that the concept is working so well. Each training allows for both EUFOR and the



AFBiH to learn from each other, especially when talking about techniques that could be useful in Peace Support Operations. AFBiH forces are already contributing successfully to peacekeeping missions abroad.

**By Captain Otmar Lindner**

